

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 09399 180505Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CA-01 SCS-06 PPT-01 SY-05 HA-05
L-03 H-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 EB-08 FBIE-00 /082 W
-----037357 181910Z /40

R 171915Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8816
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 09399

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: FR, UR
SUBJECT: PARIS-BASED FRANCO-AMERICAN COMMITTEE
ASSISTING SOVIET DISSIDENTS

1. DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY MOSCOW MAY WISH TO BE AWARE
OF ACTIVITIES OF PARIS-BASED "COMMITTEE OF FIFTEEN."
THIS IS A PRIVATE FRANCO-AMERICAN ORGANIZATION, HEADED
BY DAVID SELIKOWITZ, AN AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN RESIDENT
HERE, WHICH HAS "ADOPTED" FIFTEEN SOVIET DISSIDENTS.
THE GROUP'S MODUS OPERANDI IS TO ATTRACT PUBLIC AND
POLITICAL ATTENTION TO DISSIDENTS' PLIGHT, AND TO PRO-
VIDE ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE DISSIDENTS THEMSELVES. COM-
MITTEE OF FIFTEEN HAS TRIED TO ENLIST ASSISTANCE OF
FRENCH POLITICIANS, AND HAS HAD A CERTAIN SUCCESS IN
PRESSING INDIVIDUAL FRENCH DEPUTIES TO WRITE LETTERS
TO SOVIET EMBASSY HERE OR FRENCH EMBASSY IN MOSCOW ON
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BEHALF OF SPECIFIC DISSIDENTS. WHEN ONE OF THE FIFTEEN
"ADOPTED" DISSIDENTS SUCCEEDS IN EMIGRATING, HE IS
REPLACED BY A NEW DISSIDENT CASE.

2. COMMITTEE FINANCES ITS OPERATIONS THROUGH PRIVATE
CONTRIBUTIONS AND BY SELLING POSTCARDS DEPICTING IN-
DIVIDUAL DISSIDENTS. BUYERS THEN SEND THESE POSTCARDS

THROUGH THE OPEN MAIL TO THE DISSIDENTS AS A MEANS OF ENCOURAGING THEM AND TO CONVEY MESSAGE TO SOVIET AUTHORITIES THAT CASES OF THESE DISSIDENTS ARE KNOWN TO FRIENDS IN THE WEST.

3. COMMITTEE MEMBERS ALSO USE COMMITTEE FUNDS TO HELP FINANCE PERIODIC TRIPS TO MOSCOW, WHERE THEY VISIT DISSIDENTS TO GIVE MORAL ENCOURAGEMENT. THEY WRITE REPORTS ON THEIR TRIPS FOR THE INFORMATION OF OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

4. WE ARE POUCHING TO DEPARTMENT (EUR/SOV) AND EMBASSY MOSCOW COPIES OF DOCUMENTS PROVIDED TO US IN CONFIDENCE BY A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER INFORMING CSCE COMMISSION OF COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES.
HARTMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: LOBBYING, HUMAN RIGHTS, COMMITTEES, DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: PORG, SHUM, FR, UR, US, FRANCO-AMER COMT, COMT OF FIFTEEN
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